Submission

Community Affairs - Commonwealth Contribution to Past Adoption policies and Practises.

Part B - The potential role of the Commonwealth in developing a national framework to assist states and territories to address the consequences for the mothers, their families and children who were subject to forced adoption policies.

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Recommendation/s.

A) This submission is made that the Commonwealth utilise DNA testing, where appropriate, to provide relationship evidence and information for parties affected by forced adoption practices.

I. **Appropriate levels of support, including monetary, should be made available to those requesting the use of suitable DNA investigations for these purposes**.

As an example of the potential benefits of DNA testing, an Adopted person was given information from DOCS NSW that has turned out to be incorrect.

DOCS provided the adopted person with Medical History supposedly of the birth parents families, which was incorrect and misleading, as the person's natural mother was also adopted. It took the adopted person finding other documents to confirm that the natural mother was adopted. There is evidence to suggest that the natural father is adopted too.

In this case DNA tests have been able to provide information on susceptibility to certain medical conditions, which are not available directly from family members. *(See (2) below)*

Information is attached that is informative in nature on the subject of DNA Testing and some of the organisations performing these tests.

1) What does DNA testing do and can it help me find my family roots?
2) Genetic medical results (from 23andMe)